

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02

L-03 IGA-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY OES/CP:AMB. M. GREEN;RFSIMMONS:GJG

APPROVED BY OES/CP:AMB. MGREEN

NEA/INS - MR. OBER (SUBS)

AA/PHA - MR. FURMAN

-----061841Z 087729 /41

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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FOR CHARGE FROM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP/IN

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF FAMILY PLANNING/STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN  
ON ELECTION AND PROSPECTS FOR INDIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

REF: A. NEW DELHI 4600

B. NEW DELHI 4635

1. SUPPLEMENTING USEFUL REFTEL REPORTS ON ATTITUDES OF NEW  
HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING MINISTER NARAIN, WE WOULD WELCOME  
EMBASSY ANALYSIS OF EFFECT OF STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN ON  
ELECTION OUTCOME AND HOW VARIATIONS IN CONDUCT AND APPLICA-  
TION OF STERILIZATION PROGRAMS IN VARIOUS PROVINCES AFFECTED  
OUTCOME. FOR EXAMPLE, WAS CONGRESS PARTY'S STRONG SHOWING  
IN SOUTH, AS OPPOSED TO NORTH, ATTRIBUTABLE TO WAY FP

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PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED IN THOSE RESPECTIVE AREAS?

2. LOOKING AHEAD, WHILE WE ALL WELCOME EMPHASIS WHICH  
DESAI GOVERNMENT PLACES ON HUMANE, NON-COERCIVE VILLAGE-  
ORIENTED FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT  
REACTION TO EXCESSES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S STERILIZA-  
TION PROGRAM HAS RESULTED IN MARAIN'S SEEMING CONDEMNATION

OF STERILIZATION AS A CONTRACEPTIVE MEASURE. SINCE INDIA'S POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM HAS BEEN SO HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON STERILIZATION, LARGE-SCALE REJECTION OF STERILIZATION

MAY LEAVE INDIA, FOR SOME TIME, WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE. THIS OCCURS AT A TIME WHEN, IN MANY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THERE IS RISING INTEREST IN STERILIZATION AS AN ELECTIVE PROCEDURE FOR THOSE CLEARLY DESIRING NO MORE CHILDREN. IT IS ALSO REGARDED RATHER WIDELY AS THE SAFEST AND PERHAPS THE MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IS IT YOUR ESTIMATE (AND WE FULLY APPRECIATE THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIATED JUDGMENTS) THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE BUT NOT PRESSURE STERILIZATION? IF SO, ON WHAT SCALE?

3. IF STERILIZATION IS TO BE DE-EMPHASIZED, WHAT PLANS ARE IN THE OFFING FOR EXPANDING ALTERNATE MEANS OF CONTRACEPTION SUCH AS THE PILL, IUD, ETC.?

4. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN YOUR EVALUATION OF HOW THE DESAI GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON MAKING THE VILLAGE "THE BASE OF OUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS" EFFECTIVELY RELATES TO PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS? FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT THIS INVOLVE GREATER ATTENTION TO EXPANDING ALL-PURPOSE HEALTH WORKERS (INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING) IN VILLAGES WHERE THEY ARE KNOWN AND TRUSTED? IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES OF INDIA.

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5. WITH THE REPORTED ABANDONMENT OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR STERILIZATION, IS THERE ANY THOUGHT BEING GIVEN IN INDIAN CIRCLES FOR INCENTIVES TO VILLAGES OR COMMUNITIES WHICH ARE COPING SUCCESSFULLY AND HUMANELY WITH POPULATION GROWTH? INDIA REPORTEDLY EXPERIMENTED AT ONE TIME WITH SUCH COMMUNITY INCENTIVES AND MIGHT NOW BE DISPOSED TO TRY IT AGAIN AT LEAST ON A TRIAL BASIS.

6. WE APPRECIATE THAT FINAL ANSWERS TO SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOME TIME, BUT EMBASSY MAY WISH TO HAVE THEM IN MIND AS NEW POLICIES TAKE PLACE. WE ARE, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN ANY VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES EXPRESSED PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY BY INDIAN OFFICIALS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FAMILY PLANNING, GOVERNMENT REFORM  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 NEW DELHI 4600, 77 NEW DELHI 4635  
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**Subject:** EFFECT OF FAMILY PLANNING/STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN ON ELECTION AND PROSPECTS FOR INDIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** SPOP, IN  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
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